

TIVERTON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes: March 5, 2008

1: Call to order

Chairman Cecil Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm at the Tiverton Community Center.

Members present: Laura Epke, Frank Marshall, Ray Medeiros, Stanley Zeramby, Deb Pallasch, Diane Harris, Bob Koohy (8:00pm) Absent: Richard Joslin

2: Approval of minutes

Motion made by L. Epke, seconded by R. Medeiros, to approve minutes for Feb. 20, 2008. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by B. Koohy, seconded by L. Epke, to approve amended minutes for Feb. 27, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

Garry Plunkett: Discussed reasoning for not favoring all day referendum:

- Cost of full election every yr
- Is “we don’t trust the rascals” good enough reason
- Apathy would set in after several
- Issue of handling a no vote – if say 3%, who would get, what about debt, etc.

Leroy Kendricks, Chair Wastewater Commission: Comments re: working doc option to change charter to move regulatory power of WW to DPW:

- Several professional engineers with substantial experience on current board
- DPW at current staffing level overwhelmed with what they have
- Current model working well right now for the town

Peter Moniz: Spoke against the grand committee and presented to the Commission a detail recommendation for the Town Council approval with a citizen failsafe (see attached).

Roger Bennis: Changed previous 02/27/08 submission re: prohibiting the Town Council from applying for any State allowed waiver for expenditures to just prohibiting the debt waiver portion. (See vote on 02/27/08 submission below)

4. Commission discussion re: input for proposed changes

Chair read letter from Pat Sullivan supporting Grand Committee.

Working Doc

1. Motion by C. Leonard, seconded by L. Epke, to add to working doc “blanket” amendment that no town employee or elected officials can serve on board or commission. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion by D. Harris, seconded by B. Koohy, to reconsider amendment to prohibit the Town Council from applying for State allowed waiver relating to debt. In favor C. Leonard, D. Harris, S. Zeramby, B. Koohy, F. Marshall Opposed: L. Epke, D. Pallasch, R. Medeiros. Motion passed and item was reconsidered.
3. Motion by B. Koohy, seconded by D. Harris, to add item to the working doc to amend charter to prohibit the Town Council from applying for State allowed waiver relating to debt. In favor: D. Harris, S. Zeramby, B. Koohy, F. Marshall. Opposed: L. Epke, D. Pallasch, R. Medeiros, C. Leonard. Motion failed.
4. Motion by B. Koohy, seconded by D. Harris, to add to the working document amendment to mandate that docket for FTM (or its alternative) shall contain an accurate indication of all costs and the “total costs” for each Department. In Favor: D. Harris, S. Zeramby, B. Koohy, F. Marshall, C. Leonard, R. Medeiros Opposed: L. Epke, D. Pallasch
5. Motion by L. Epke, seconded by C. Leonard, to add to working doc to consider other items that should be included in budget docket (section 703). Motion passed with F. Marshall opposed.

FTM

1. Motion by L. Epke, seconded by D. Pallasch, to elect the Town Council with failsafe option as the Commission’s final alternative. In favor: L. Epke. Opposed: D. Harris, S. Zeramby, B. Koohy, F. Marshall, C. Leonard, R. Medeiros Abstain: D. Pallasch
2. Motion by C. Leonard, seconded by F. Marshall, to elect the “Grand Committee” with failsafe option as the Commission’s final alternative. In favor: S. Zeramby, B. Koohy, F. Marshall, C. Leonard, R. Medeiros Opposed: L. Epke Abstain: D. Pallasch, D. Harris

5. Other

None

6. Adjournment

The Commission’s March 5, 2008 regular meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Minutes recorded and compiled by Deborah Pallasch, Secretary.